Dear Howard, 12/29/76

If the Bulletin does not do a story on you I'm going to be disappointed and surprised.

Stuart Ditzen, now assigned to their Washington bureau and to the House committee, spoke to me several days ago for about an hour. He was here at 8:15 this a.m. and remained until he had to leave at about 4. We covered much territory as it could prepare him for his job. Not just you, my idea, now his.

But you are a natural for Phila. story and your people would love one.

One of the questions he had is why you went to Fla. I told him probably like most young people to get away from home and run your own life without having to tocuh base and perhaps to Gainesville because a college of higher preference was crazy not to grab you. This was over the phone.

Anyway, whether your plans are not to return to Phila or not if this comes up you are now taking your training and you have to complete that and after that you have no plans not to return to Phila. This is not saying that absolutely you will. Something like you have not thought it through but you come from phila., your family is in Phila., amd unless you get an offer you just can't turn down from some place else you without thinking of it just assumed that the angel would look homeward. If they do a story, and I did really turn him on, it could lead to a good offer. No, not from Specter's firm.

He impressed me as a goody person and a good reporter. No silliness, no propraganda, no blind acceptance and polite persistence in being satisfied when he had questions.

The committee has a new p.r. man, one of his former colleagues who was a pal of Sorague's.

There is another possible usefulness in the Bulletin carrying a nice story on you, ~~xxxx~~ I'm inclined to thing more like in a weekend edition. Sprague makes the committee a local story for it. They may use you to check with. I'll try to encourage this with Ditzen in the future. I do expect him back.

Being a Bulletin reporter today seems to be not unprofitable. He was driving a fone car, I think a Lincoln, not an old model.

Jim tells me that the NYPost, I think he said yesterday, carried a story on the new witness who says 399 came from a different stretcher. Sounds like a Tink-er Toy to me. That is a very hairy point and there is no possibility I can now conceive, without time to think it through (he just told me), that leads me to believe it can be for real. Besides, Tomlinson refused to say it was from Connally's. This is almost saying another. Jim expects Jerry to send him a xerox. I do not know if the Post gets there. I presume not. If we get a story and it is worth your time we'll send it.

You should understand that these characters know nothing and have no means as yet of going off on their own. Shorthand, it was fed to them. And they are grabbing at and trying to use anything and everything for a) continuation and b) appropriation.

Best,